The first Workshop on Vedic Mathematics was held in March, 1988 at Jaipur and the second workshop is proposed to be held in October this year. Some selected teachers from Navodaya Vidyalayas, Central Schools and the National Council of Educational Research & Training were associated with the Workshop of March, 1988, and they will also be associated with the workshop which is to be held in October. After October 1988, three more workshops will be held on various aspects of Vedic Mathematics. These workshops will among other things, make recommendation as to the advisability of introducing Vedic Mathematics in the normal curricula of school education. Further action will depend on the recommendations of these Workshops.

National meet on education for women

2733. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had organised in New Delhi in June, 1988 a two day national meet on Education for women's equality:

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the meeting:

(c) whether it is also fact that in the meeting the Director of National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration revealed that it would take 250 years for Rajasthan, 200 years for Uttar Pradesh and 150 years for Madhya Pradesh to attain full female literacy: and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National meet endorsed the recommendations/action plans made by the four Regional Workshops held earlier with the objective of promoting education for women's equality.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Director National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) drew attention to the study made by researchers earlier that if the literacy continued to improve at the rate it had in 1971-81, then it would take about 14-25 decades to attain full female literacy in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Besides a number of schemes initiated by Government, the action plans/recommendations finalised in the national meet organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training if properly implemented, will promote women's education.

Exclusion of drugs for maternal and child Health from National Health Programme

2734. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 157 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th July, 1988 and state:

(a) whether drugs for Maternal and Child Health have been omitted from the list of drugs required for National Health Programme:

(b) whether it is a fact that Iron preparations, calcium preparation and Folic Acid formulations have registered an increase of 100 per cent in their prices and the Minister of Health and Family Welfare is solely responsible therefor;

(c) what prompted the bureaucrats of his Ministry to violate their criteria and resort to inconsistencies to favour multinational companies;